



## Travels with VA3PP

by Pat Pugh (VA3PP)

I attended my 41<sup>st</sup> nursing reunion in Ottawa from May 14-18. Even though we graduated from the Port Arthur General Hospital, we decided to celebrate this one in Ottawa because we have two classmates living in the area. Eleven from the class of twenty attended and we had a super time.

When the reunion was over, I had a great two day visit with former Thunder Bay residents, Gary (VA2GK) and Coral Spence (VA2CS) and their family. They now live in Aylmer, Quebec across the river from Ottawa. Gary had purchased me a ticket to attend an Abbamania concert (that was held as part of the Tulip Festival celebrations in Ottawa) with him and Coral along with, Dave (VO1AU) and Jan Goodwin. Talk about getting back to the 70's. (*Dave is the current president and chairman of RAC....ed*)

Following the concert, Dave and his wife Jan invited us to their home for home-made Chinese food (was it ever good!). I was able to see Dave's shack and the numerous awards he has earned. He and Jan have moved back to Ottawa from Newfoundland. Gary has recently put up a new vertical for the lower bands. What a pleasure to listen to 40 meters with no noise level. My two days ended quickly and it was back onto the Greyhound for a visit with my cousin in Thessalon, Ontario before finally getting home on May 23. It was a good holiday.



The Spence Family



VA3PP Enjoying the view



The Goodwin's and the Spence's

### We Welcome

Candice Hamlin-Basic (VA3CHJ)

Connie Hamlin-Basic (VA3CMH)

Donald Kannegiesser-Basic with honors (awaiting call sign)

Welcome to the amateur radio community, we hope you have a great time with your new hobby.

**LARC SENATE**

Keith Fiske VE3JQ  
 Pat Doherty VE3PD  
 Dave Kimpton VE3AVS  
 Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD  
 Terry Stewardson VA3LU  
 Ed Baumann VE3SNW

**ABOUT US**

The :Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to [ve3snw@shaw.ca](mailto:ve3snw@shaw.ca)

**LARC EXECUTIVE**

President  
 Bill Unger VE3XT 344-1848  
 Vice-President  
 Bob Hansen VE3RVA 767-6924  
 Secretary  
 Terry Stewardson VA3LU 577-9439  
 Treasurer  
 Joe Coghlan VE3TBX 344-6566  
 Directors  
 Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628  
 Randy Gottfred VA3OJ 474-0910  
 Mike Nawrocki VE3ZG 767-1714  
 Brian Bolt VE3BCQ  
 Past President  
 Terry Stewardson VA3LU 577-9439

**Treasurer's Report**

Balance on Hand - May 1/08 \$6,379.37

Income

## Caps

Memberships \$35.00

50/50 Draws (May) \$ 7.00

Bank Interest \$ 0.05

**Total Income \$42.05**

Expenses

Thunder Bay Telephone \$47.61

Canwarn Training \$47.92

Meeting Expenses \$25.00

Bank Service Charges \$1.50

**Total Expenses \$122.03**

Balance on Hand - June 10/08 \$6,299.39

Joe Coghlan - VE3TBX  
 Treasurer

**LARC Emergency Coordinator**  
 VA3OJ Randy Gottfred 474-0910  
**ARES District Emergency Coordinator**  
 VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789  
**Assistant**  
 VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628  
**CANWARN**  
 VA3JMS John 767-3631  
 VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628  
**Public Service Events**  
 VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628  
 VA3JMS John 767-3631  
**Amateur Radio Accredited Examiner**  
 VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789  
[flesnick@tbaytel.net](mailto:flesnick@tbaytel.net)

**LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS**

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 145.490 (-600) (100.0 Hz)

442.075 (+5 MHz)

144.390 APRS

VE3BGA (Hillcrest H.S.) 145.450 (-600) (IRLP Node VA3LU 123.0 Hz)

442.825 (+5 MHz) (100.0 Hz)

VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

## The Prez Sez

Well it looks like summer is finally here and that means travel time if you can afford gas! Last summer Rita and I travelled, and last weekend I was on a bit of a junket. Both times I was monitoring local repeaters and heard activity and announced I was mobile. Nothing, nadda, zip for a reply. Then a few minutes later you hear two locals chatting. Hams are supposed to be friendly. Please if you hear an out of town Amateur passing by say hello and welcome them to Thunder Bay. It really makes a good impression when a visitor is acknowledged.

The meeting this month is on Thursday, June 12 at 7:30 Pm in the McIntyre Building. Building services assures me the building will be open, so hope to see you there. The main topic of the evening will be Field Day. We plan to finalize the location and operating procedures.

For the first time in a long time I may not be available to attend Field Day this year as cook or op. The College is sending Rita and me to China for the month of July and part of August. We are going at the request of the Chinese Government to highlight the Colleges Programs in Electronics and Mechanical Engineering.

This will also be my last meeting as President. After doing it I thoroughly enjoyed it, but its time to move on. As Director of RAC, I want to be able to put a little more time to that endeavour. I would encourage each of you to consider letting your name stand as an executive member for next year. Being President takes about 2 hours extra each month besides the meeting, so it's not an onerous task. Consider it please.

73

Bill VE3XT

## RAC REPORT

The Cornwall meeting of the Regional Directors was held on May 1 to 3. There were some long days, Friday we went from 8:30 AM to 9:30 PM. As you can imagine there was lots of ideas and information shared and discussed. I won't try to tell you all the details as this report would be 17 pages long.

By far the best part of the weekend was awarding a \$1000 scholarship to Brendan McDonald, VA3BJM.

He is 18 years old and was first licensed in 2003. He comes from a very Amateur rich family, father Dean, VA3DAM, mother Shelly, VA3SJM and uncle Scott, VA3EXT. In grade 12 he maintained a 95% average. He plans to attend University of Ottawa and he hopes to obtain a Masters in Audiology. This could be an inducement to introduce our Grandchildren to Ham Radio.

Another discussion we had was facilitated by John, VE1OZ the new VP of Public Relations. He challenged us to do some long term strategic thinking as to where RAC was going to be in 5 years. How can we be the best Amateur Radio Organization for our members? I know I don't have the answers, and I am not even sure I have any ideas. But I would like to hear from you on this issue, if you were the Minister of Industry Canada or President of RAC and could do what ever you wanted to make Amateur Radio more vibrant, more active Amateurs and the hobby better what would you do?

Two other good news stories from the last two Board of Directors meetings were the number of RAC members has gone up by approximately 300 in the last few months. Thanks to those of new and returning members. The other good news story is the RAC financial situation is very, very slowly improving. Thanks to the new and renewing members.

Recently two Assistant Directors have visited Thunder Bay and I was pleased to visit with them. Al, VE3AJB and his XYL were here to drive their son Brian, VA3BBQ home from his first year at Confederation College. (continued page four)  
RAC Report continued...

Paul, VE3PC was also visiting and we had an eyeball. He runs a website that can be used to co-ordinate 2 Metre Repeater assignments in Northern Ontario. I would ask all repeater owners and users to check visit it and verify the info for their machine. If you see something that needs to be corrected please notify Paul. The link is <http://www.ciinet.org/repeater/index.html>

**Bill Unger VE3XT**

North/East Ontario Regional Director  
Radio Amateurs of Canada  
807 344 1848



## UPCOMING HAMFESTS

Brainerd Area Hamfest  
 Saturday July 12 0900 - 1300  
 Brainerd National Guard Armory in Southeast  
 Brainerd - 1115 Wright Street Brainerd MN  
<http://www.brainerdham.org>

Peoria Superfest September 20 -21, 2008  
 Exposition Gardens 1601 W. Northmoor Road Peoria  
 Illinois  
<http://www.peoriasuperfest.com>

Rochester Amateur Radio Expo  
 Saturday August 9 - 10, 2008  
 Rochester University Center, 855 30th Ave SE  
 Rochester MN  
<http://www.rarexpo.org>

**HAMS ON BIKES**

Join Dave VE3AVS and enjoy a leisurely bike ride to Kakabeka Falls and then enjoy a sumptuous breakfast at the Royal Canadian Legion Kakabeka Falls Branch buffets 9-1 on June 8 - July 13 - August 10 - September 14. After breakfast, it's a mere 24 kilometres back to Thunder Bay...mostly downhill! Contact Dave for more information and don't forget your handheld.

This month's websites are from VA3WRL. I don't know where Wayno finds the time.

<http://www.w5yi.org/page.php?id=3>

<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/reference/radio/>

<http://emergencyradio.ca/course/>

<http://www.hfradio.net/>

<http://ah0a.org/AH0A.html>

<http://www.itu.int/itunews/manager/display.asp?lang=en&year=2007&issue=08&ipage=amateurradio&ext=html>

## Club History Project --Update

Robert, VA3ROM, has scanned two large binders holding Hi-Q and administrative documents. A large Job! Robert was able to salvage a lot of the original details by enhancing the poor printed copies we had, thus a lot of this documentation will be directly searchable once we put the final package together! Well done, Robert!

Bill VE3XT has copied a binder or two of Hi-Q's over the winter and spring. This helped greatly in getting through the pile of stuff we had been sitting on! I think we have 'most' of the Hi-Q's now in .pdf format, along with a lot of the administrative documents.

I will now concentrate on getting the .pdf stuff organized to a useable order with Jim VE3UA.

We have some photos with Terry, VA3LU, for scanning at this time. I think that is the only outstanding project at this time.

(Refresh me, if I'm missing anyone's outstanding projects or if I forgot anyone involved)!

Lindo has copied the audio/video pile of tapes we had to a disk – another large job!. I have a copy of the disk here, and will work on the publishing of that after some more discussions with Jim VE3UA, et al. Thanks for taking the time converting all that stuff, including the commercial tapes, Lindo!

We still have photos to sort, identify, label and place in an electronic photo album, with thanks to Dave VE3AVS for doing a heap of photo scanning!

Thanks to everyone's contribution to time and effort, we are finally seeing parts of this humongous project start to take shape!

73

Leo VE3ATC

## Club Meeting June 12th

## Basic Rules for Emergency Operations

*Here is some basic information on emergency communications procedures from <http://www.emergencyradio.ca/> ...used with permission*

DO NOT act on your own to provide emergency communication. We must remember that we are to ASSIST the various served agencies only when called for. An unorganized, knee-jerk reaction to an emergency situation will create problems and damage our good will. If you suspect that a potential emergency situation exists that would require amateur radio communication, please monitor the various assigned net frequencies for your area. If you suspect we may be needed, notify your local Emergency Coordinator or Assistant EC.

When a served agency needs our assistance, they usually alert designated amateur radio operators who are members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Typically, this is the local Emergency Coordinator who has registered himself and other amateurs IN ADVANCE with the agencies seeking help. Once called in by the served agency, the EC (or designated amateur) should notify the District Emergency Coordinator. The DEC will then notify the Section Emergency Coordinator, who in turn will notify the Section Manager. Use only enough operators to get the situation under control.

Activation of nets in "Stand By Mode" to check on availability of amateurs in anticipation of a response is always a judgment call and can sometimes be worthwhile. Care should be exercised that no one 'jumps the gun' and confuses the situation.

The EC will normally assign an NCS for control of the local net, which is to be designated as the "key station." This station will be used extensively during a communications emergency. Key station personnel should have full use of emergency power capability with adequate relief operators assigned to ensure continuous operation. When an officially activated emergency net is in session, the NET CONTROL IS THE BOSS. Discipline is essential if operations are to go smoothly. DO NOT TALK unless specifically asked to do so.

If the emergency should cover more than the local area, the EC in charge may, at his/her option, ask for activation of additional traffic nets on a District or Section-wide basis. He will assign liaison stations to and from these nets.

All messages must be written traffic in standard NTS Radiogram format. This will give you a written, signed, and dated record of emergency traffic passed. This is invaluable as an audit trail and for later critique sessions.

In making this statement we realize that there will be verbal communications, which are not RADIOGRAMS! It is ridiculous to even consider the need for a radiogram to advise of a tornado on the ground or funnel cloud sightings etc. during Skywarn and other situations. Our reasoning is based on the idea that if the served agency asks that an important message be transmitted it is worthwhile for the served agency AND YOU to have a written record of the message and its origin, destination and content. Radiograms are the quick way to accomplish this.

All emergency and priority messages must be SIGNED by the official who originates them, with their title, taking responsibility for their contents. Message precedence of (E)mergency, (P)riority, (W)elfare or (R)outine shall be used on ALL messages. The filing time of (E)mergency and (P)riority traffic is important and must be shown.

During formal nets in disasters, stations do not transmit unless invited to do so by the net control. The ONLY exception to this is for a station having EMERGENCY traffic. When the emergency is over, the Emergency Coordinator, or the amateur in charge, MUST file a report with the District Emergency Coordinator. The report should include a description of the traffic handled, duration of the net, participants, and agencies served. This will be invaluable during a critique session.

An emergency situation may take many forms. This could include minor communications assistance to local Police Authorities in assisting with traffic or crowd control to serving one or more agencies in a major province-wide disaster such as a chemical spill or natural disaster.

Likewise, the emergency may be confined to an area of a few hundred feet to several counties. ARES members must be able to respond to these situations in a timely and efficient manner. Should an emergency situation arise which may require the assistance of ARES Ontario members, the following must be kept in mind:

1. In most situations, the affected area will be local in nature, confined to a local community or part of a community. For local communications to be effective, each EC in the area is encouraged to establish a working relationship with served agencies in the area particularly the local CEMC official.

2. In all instances, ARES personnel should not begin to assist unless called upon by an official of the Served Agency, unless the EC and the served official have worked out specific other arrangements on a broader basis. It is hoped that the local EC has made prior efforts to see to it that the Served Agencies are aware of what radio amateurs can provide. In all instances, it is assumed that the official of the Served Agency will contact the local EC to request assistance.

3. Once the local EC has received the call for assistance, he should begin notifying his ARES registered amateurs of the situation. He should also notify the District Emergency Coordinator, or in his absence, the Section Emergency Coordinator of the situation

4. In the case of a local emergency, the EC should begin call-up procedures for emergency net activation on the local emergency frequency. This is usually accomplished via a repeater to provide for a wide area coverage, however a simplex two meter frequency would suffice if coverage is adequate. Once the net is activated, the EC or his appointed control operator will act as net control for as long as necessary. The NCS should make every effort to see that emergency traffic is handled in the most efficient manner as possible. A listing of all traffic, check-ins (especially mobile) and agencies served should be recorded. For additional information, refer to the RAC Emergency Coordinator's Manual.

5. In order of priority, requests from Emergency Management Ontario shall be answered first, followed by local municipal officials, then other agencies as is necessary.

6. Health and Welfare traffic will likely, NOT be accepted for several hours, due to the inability to handle such traffic. In a major emergency, the emphasis will be on handling true emergency traffic, which provides immediate relief from suffering and saving lives.

7. The use of Tactical callsigns during an emergency should provide some indication of the station's operating location. Stations operating for example from the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre should use "EMO EOC" and stations operating in the Toronto EOC should identify themselves as "Toronto EOC". Identification is a requirement of IC. Stations must give complete station identification at least once in a 30-minute operating period, particularly when tactical calls are being used.

8. Under no circumstances will any ARES appointee attempt to provide support communications for any agency until instructed to do so by the agency officials.

9. The use of any Q signals, ( QSL, QSY etc) during and emergency operation will not be used on phone nets. These signals were developed for CW nets in order to speed and simplify net operations. When used on phone they have the potential to be misunderstood. Additionally, the use of such signals on phone is considered poor operating technique.

10. The common use of "Break" and " Break-Break" to indicate an emergency shall not be used. It has no universally understood meaning. The word "EMERGENCY" will be used on phone to announce information of life or death importance. The standard CW signal is SOS sent as one character- not 3 spaced letters.

11. NEVER MAKE ANY COMMENT TO A MEMBER OF THE MEDIA!!! That is the job of the Public Information Officer. "I CAN'T ANSWER

THAT QUESTION." is always a good answer. Refer them to the PIO. Media personnel are trained to be very convincing and are very clever at getting you to say something. What they will always be looking for will be information regarding injuries, deaths, addresses of the most severe damage, license numbers of vehicles, rail car numbers, and possible reported causes which might lead them to a trail-of-responsibility/blame" This type information is confidential and is to be passed only by more secure means, i.e. packet or courier, which they cannot access by scanner. If you don't recognize a person as someone you absolutely know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, to be part of the authorized on-site operations team, don't discuss the situation with them!

12. Should you ever find yourself in a situation where you have found a dead body, or body parts, DO NOT report this to the NCS. Request only that the NCS send the appropriate authorities and help to your location on a priority basis. If the NCS should happen to ask for more details, refuse to give them and repeat your request. A smart and trained NCS operator will catch on quickly. In the case of a discovered injury or body entrapment, notify the NCS immediately, but NEVER TRANSMIT THE NAME OF AN INJURED, TRAPPED OR DECEASED SUBJECT.

13. NEVER leave your post or the person you have been assigned to "Shadow" without notifying the NCS. If the authorities ask you to move, do so immediately and without comment; but notify the NCS of your change in status as soon as you can.

Remember: We are communicators. We do not make decisions about anything for the authorities. They (our served agencies) are in charge, not us. It is not your call to decide that more fire engines are needed, or that an emergency generator is needed somewhere. Your only job is to communicate, when asked to do so, what the authorities want communicated. They do not have to use you at all; and many times they won't. Do not insist that they do. You are there to provide them with an extra way for them to pass information when their communications systems either fail or become overloaded. Tell them you are available for service when needed and back off. Speak only when spoken to, stay visible and pay attention. Nothing can be more embarrassing than to

"lose" the person you are supposed to shadow. (Don't laugh... It has happened!)

It may be quicker and more efficient to hand your microphone to the person who wishes to pass a message than to try and relay it yourself. Don't be afraid to let the authorities operate as third parties. Just hand them the mic and tell them they can't use foul language. Relays often become incorrectly "translated" by the relay operator, especially if there is a high percentage of special agency terminology, technical terms or jargon that you do not really understand.

If an on-scene authority requests that you shut your radio off, or that you not transmit, please do what they ask without question. Normally, they will tell you why, but they don't have to. This is one circumstance where you do not notify the NCS of a change in your status. This deserves a little explanation. This would normally occur only if there is a presence of explosives or explosive chemicals or vapors, and there is the possibility that a spark producing electronic device is present like blasting caps, smoke detectors, receivers, telephones, etc., which might be triggered by an RF Signal.

**GET READY FOR FIELD DAY!**

# June

<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b> COFFEE NIGHT AT BOSTON	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Sun</b>
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> LARC MEETING	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> summer solstice	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> FIELD DAY	<b>29</b> FIELD DAY
<b>30</b>						